

THE OMAHA BEE

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FOUNDED BY EDWARD ROSEWATER.
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The horrors of war multiply as the shooting proceeds. England is going on half rations of beer.

A league to enforce peace among American suffragists appears equally in the interest of humanity.

The film-makers complain that the movie stars take all the profits. That's why they are movie stars.

Opportunity can dispense with the knock, so far as makers and vendors of soft drinks are concerned. The glad hands of both classes already extend the welcome.

The sad fact that Mr. Bryan has come out in opposition to the president's peace proposals just brings our amiable democratic contemporary to tears—only they are crocodile tears.

The latest inning for the freedom of the North sea once more ties the score. Unless greater speed for a decision is shown presently the bleachers may demand rain checks.

Now, if the charge were that office stenographers, rather than public-school teachers, were selected largely for "charm of face and figure," there would be no such indignation.

German commentators on President Wilson's utterances insist that if his plan fails he must take sides with one of the belligerents. Anyone with this idea in his head has another guess.

If anyone is excited over the imminence of the coming grand jury, the excitement is not visible on the surface. What was the special business which demanded the calling of a grand jury at this time, anyway?

The distinguished visitor who is urging religious instruction in our public schools should have his attention called to the constitution of Nebraska. Whatever may be permissible in other places, no mixture of church and school is possible here.

If Nebraska is to have a constitutional convention, why should the legislature bother now with constitutional amendments? Or put it the other way: If the legislature is to submit amendments to bring the constitution up-to-date, why bother with a convention?

Shortening the ballot by half would accomplish the object better than doubling the election boards. Reduce the number of cross-marks to reasonable limits and the counting will take care of itself. For proof, recall our municipal elections in which we vote for just seven city commissioners.

Solons of the Nutmeg state propose a license system for newspaper writers, designed to elevate the qualifications of the profession and check the speed of inventive imaginations. Ever since local talent put the con in Connecticut the humbled Nutmeggers longed for just such a chance to retrieve their reputation.

Under the inspiring influence of "Mrs. Speaker," the Oregon assembly dispatched business in proper form, while the members dispensed with the pipe, the cigar and cigaret. Apart from other considerations, the influence in suppressing smoke smudges in itself constitutes an appealing reason for encouraging woman's participation in public meetings and affairs.

The Bee owes an evening contemporary an apology, which it hereby publicly tenders. By one of those unexplainable typographical errors the name of "Senator Stone" of Missouri was made to appear in an Associated Press dispatch in the Bee as "Senator Strong." Of course the c. c. was not supposed to be aware of the misspelling when it stole the dispatch bodily and reprinted it, mistake and all. As such theft, however, is a daily occurrence, we know it behooves us to be all the more careful.

Built on Bee Lines

Hastings Tribune: The Omaha Bee is right when it says that the agitation to make the study of the life of Abraham Lincoln compulsory in our public schools would be better received if it did not smack so much of the book trust.

Kearney Hub: A woman writing to The Omaha Bee demands the abolition of the pool hall as "a greater nuisance than the saloon," but fails to suggest any substitute as a place of community recreation. There are already too many "thou shalt nots" with rarely "thou mayests" as a counterpoint of human fellowship.

Kearney Hub: The Omaha Bee remarks that "our democratic friends down at Lincoln are talking of imitating the example of the legislature of 1907, which was a republican legislature, and the most noticeable body that ever assembled in the state." The Bee's conclusion that "they couldn't pick a better model" does not need corroboration.

Nebraska City Press: The Omaha Bee, one of the pioneers in the movement for good roads in Nebraska, says someone is accusing it of trying to dictate how roads should be built in this state. The Bee should worry; likewise it might be a good idea for someone to dictate in the matter. There is a unanimity of opinion about roads, but very few people can agree on just how they should be built. Also, some people are probably sincere in the belief that Uncle Sam should not interfere and put federal money for roads into the states.

Discussing Wilson's Peace Plans.

Senators of the United States have tacitly agreed not to devote any of the precious remaining time to formal discussion of the proposals made in the peace address of President Wilson. This decision will be applauded by the country at large, for it will permit more careful consideration of the really vital matters that must be given attention between this time and the 4th of March. Not that universal peace is not of prime importance to the United States, for it is, but the question as presented in the president's address is not immediately pressing. In course of the informal discussion before the senate on the Cummins resolution, before it was sent to the calendar, several serious obstacles to the course suggested for this country were brought to view. These were not presented in a spirit of narrow partisanship, but to indicate the difficulties that must be overcome before the United States can enter on the program of beneficent activity hinted at by Mr. Wilson. Even should the senate be willing to co-operate with the president, and under the constitution the senate is the real treaty-making power of this country, it is yet needed that agreement be reached on a number of details that will be troublesome unless settled in advance. In good season the debate will come, and the public will be enlightened on the actual methods of securing peace and how far the United States can safely become involved in European politics.

Just Resting—Not Abandoned.

President Calvin of the Union Pacific says he has not yet had the demand for a new Union depot for Omaha put up to him. It's coming, Mr. Calvin! Be advised that the respite granted is merely to afford you time to become familiar with the present inadequate passenger accommodations and to acquire a state of preparedness for a favorable answer. Be assured, too, that the people of Omaha give the railroads converging here the credit of good intentions and a willingness to treat this city as well as they do other cities in which they have terminals, but they also know that it would be unprecedented for Omaha to get a new Union depot without first exerting pressure to convince the railroads not only that we are entitled to it, but that we must have it and will not rest content without it. At least, we know that has been the experience elsewhere. There is a new Union depot on Omaha's little list and it expects to place a check-mark against it soon.

Plaint of the "Movie" Makers.

Testimony by a leader among the makers of moving picture films that the "stars" get all the earnings of the industry indicates the predicament in which the producers find themselves as a result of their own methods. Recently it has been the custom of these purveyors of public amusement to vaunt the enormous cost of production and the extravagant prices paid to popular favorites for performing before the camera.

Americans have outstripped all peoples in the way of lavishing money reward on all whose talent or ability for the time holds popular fancy, but no other entertainers have yet approached the figures attained by the moving picture aristocrats. Adeline Patti, blessed above all women in voice and business ability, is famed for her \$5,000 a performance, but she never got within shouting distance of Charley Chaplin's \$720,000 a year. All future ages will pay tribute to Edwin Booth and Tommaso Salvini for their heaven-sent genius, but neither of these ever approached the earthy reward that is pouring in on Douglas Fairbanks. Extension of this list of comparison is possible, but of little service. The jingle of the nickels and dimes in the box at the moving picture theater is the source of the golden stream from which comes comfort and luxury to the fortunate ones whose names bring millions daily to watch the shadows on the screen.

Just now the patrons of the "movies" do not want pictures or stories—they demand "stars," and the producers must give them stars or see them turn to some other form of amusement. The man who will be successful above his fellows is the one who will be ready with the new plaything when the public tires of its present toy.

Passing Around the "Pork."

President Wilson's monetary visit to congress last week has some effect, at least in accelerating the movement of the legislative mill. Within two hours one of the "fattest" pork-barrel bills ever put through was passed by the house and sent over to the senate. It appropriates \$38,000,000 in round numbers for sites and federal buildings throughout the country. Of this sum \$99,000 is allotted to Nebraska, most of it for buildings at the Genoa Indian school.

Specific instances of the profligate waste of public money in these omnibus measures have frequently been given, but no amount of protest has served to shame the present congress into foregoing its grab at the treasury. On the morning that bill was passed the deficit in the United States treasury for the fiscal year 1917 stood at \$145,744,306.75, more than two and one-half times the deficit for the preceding year. Remember, too, that the present democratic administration has shown a deficit in the treasury for each year it has been in office.

Some items of the bill puzzle the student to determine by what rule the democrats distribute their favors. For example: The bill carries \$5,000 to purchase a building site at Baxley, Ga., and \$1,500,000 for a site at Boston. This is \$2.02 per head for Boston and \$6 per head for Baxley. On the volume of business done, if the Baxley item of \$5,000 is correct then Boston should have \$1,822,500,000, the postal business at Boston being just 1.215 times as large as that done at Baxley.

Think how proud each of the 945 citizens of Las Vegas, Nev., will be as they point to the \$5,000 postoffice Uncle Sam is going to put up there. And in Susanville, Cal., a bustling, teeming center of 688 souls, \$10,000 will be expended on a federal building. West Palm Beach, Fla., where the "tiger" is said to have his lair, is to get \$10,000 also for a postoffice, to be principally used by those who fall in the "jungles" to write home for money.

This list might be easily extended. Its beauty is heightened by the knowledge that closely following it through the house is proceeding a bill to authorize a floating indebtedness of \$100,000,000 and a bond issue of \$289,000,000.

Internal revenue returns suggest a new twist in national patriotism. Despite the vast increase in the dry area last year, the consumption of liquors reached record proportions. Patriotic wets must have made up the dry deficit with all the enthusiasm evoked by a spirit of self-sacrifice.

Railroads Here and Abroad

Although receiving the lowest freight rates of any country except one, the railroads of the United States receive the highest passenger rates of the railroads of any country, with two exceptions. At the same time the American carriers pay the highest wages in the world, with the one exception of the railroads of western Australia. The only country in which the freight rates are lower than in the United States is India, where the cost of labor is very small, and in western Australia, the only country where the wages are higher than in America, the freight rates are almost twice what they are in this country. These facts are shown in a study of a bulletin issued by the bureau of railway economics, giving comparative statistics of the railroads of the United States and of thirty-eight foreign countries, representing something like seven-eighths of the world's railway mileage.

The most striking fact shown by the bureau's compilation is the low freight rate in the United States as compared with the rates of other countries, considering the high wages in the United States, the cost of labor being the greatest item in the cost of railroad operation. The average receipts per ton miles on the railroads of this country is .729 cent, about 60 per cent of the roads of the principal European countries. India, the only country to have a lower rate, has a rate of .7 cent. Brazil has the highest rate, 7.03 cents. Canada's average rate .758 cent, while in most other countries the freight rates are two and three times as much as those received in this country. Following are some of the receipts per ton mile, expressed in cents: Austria, 1.508; Denmark, 2.113; France, 1.183; Germany, 1.244; Hungary, 1.215; Japan, .774; Russia, .933; Spain, 2.226; Sweden, 1.373. These figures were taken from European reports for 1913, the last normal year before the war upset things industrial across the Atlantic.

The average yearly compensation of employees in the United States was given as \$756.83. Western Australia the only country with a higher wage rate, paid its railroad employees \$89.50 a year. In Germany the average was \$408.97, in Holland, \$341.52; in Italy, \$376.81; in Austria, \$335.90; in Russia, \$211.40. Japan paid the lowest railroad wage, with an average of \$112.56 a year for each employee. The average European wage is shown to be about half of what is paid in this country.

The capitalization per mile in the United States ranks very low in comparison with that in other countries. The bureau's compilation gives these capitalization figures for some of the larger countries: United States, \$65,861; Austria, \$122,053; Belgium, \$216,143; Canada, \$56,065; France, \$150,439; Germany, \$120,049; Japan, \$88,633; Russia, \$86,968; United Kingdom, \$274,027.

In commenting upon the comparisons by the bureau, the Railway Age Gazette says:

"The principal economies in operation in this country which have made possible practically the lowest freight rates in the world have been effected by increasing the size of the units in which freight is transported. The railroads of the United States handle more freight per year, per train and per mile than the railroads of any other country in the world."

The average receipts per passenger mile in the United States are higher than in any other country except Brazil and Cuba. The average rate for the United States is 2.008 cents, while in Austria the average rate is 1.079, in France, 1.068; in Spain, 1.522; in Hungary, .967; Germany, .908, and Russia, .699 cents. In India the average rate is only .414 cent. In Brazil the average rate per mile is 2.64 cents and in Cuba 2.86 cents. The reason for the low passenger rates in other countries is, of course, to be found in the difference in the character of service.

On the Eve of Battle

Student-in-Arms, in London Spectator

I am not a psychologist, and I have not seen many people die in their beds; but it is established that very few people are afraid of a natural death when it comes to the test. A violent death such as death in battle is obviously a different matter. It comes to a man when he is in the full possession of his health and vigor, and when every physical instinct is urging him to self-preservation. If a man feared death in such circumstances one could not be surprised, and yet in the present war hundreds of thousands of men have gone to meet practically certain destruction without giving a sign of terror. Their emotions seem to be number. Noises, sights and sensations which would ordinarily produce intense pity, sorrow or dread have no effect on them at all, and yet never was their mind clearer, their sight, hearing, etc., more acute. But with the issue before them, with victory or death or the prospect of eternity, their minds blankly refuse to come to grips. It is before an attack that a man is more liable to fears—before his blood is hot, and while he still has leisure to think. The trouble may begin a day or two in advance, when he is first told of the attack which is likely to mean death to himself and his comrades. One indulges in regrets about the home one may never see again. One is rather sorry for one's self; but such self-pity is not wholly unpleasant. One feels mildly heroic, which is not wholly disagreeable either. Very few men are afraid of death in the abstract. Very few men believe in hell, or are tortured by their consciences.

But as the hour approaches when the attack is due to be launched the strain becomes more tense. The men are probably cooped up in a very small space. Movement is restricted. Matches must not be struck. Voices must be hushed to a whisper. Shells bursting and machine guns rattling bring home the grim reality of the affair. It is then more than at any other time in an attack that a man has to "face the specters of the mind," and lay them to rest.

The vast majority experiences more or less violent physical shrinking from the pain of death and wounds, especially when they are obliged to be physically inactive, and when they have nothing else to think about. This kind of dread is, in the case of a good many men, intensified by darkness and suspense, and by the deafening noise and shock that accompany the detonation of high explosives. But it cannot properly be called the fear of death, and it is a purely physical reaction, which can be, and is nearly always, controlled by the mind. Last of all there is the repulsion and loathing for the whole business of war, with its bloody ruthlessness, its flesh-hungry ingenuity and its insensate cruelty, that comes to a man after a battle, when the tortured and dismembered dead lie strewn about the trench, and the wounded groan from No-Man's land. But neither is that the fear of death. It is a repulsion which breeds hot anger more often than cold fear, reckless hatred of life more often than abject clinging to it. But even where men are afraid it is generally not death that they fear. Their fear is a physical and instinctive shrinking from hurt, shock and the unknown, which instinct obtains the mastery only through surprise, or through the exhaustion of the mind and will, or through a man being excessively self-centered. It is not the fear of death rationally considered; but an irrational, physical instinct which all men possess, but which almost all can control.

People and Events

Chicago's new police chief tells his men: "Make Chicago so disagreeable a place for criminals that they will stay away." The job promises a continuous season of sport.

The erstwhile fistie champion, Bob Fitzsimmons, has gone into training at Seattle for a pulpit career, following the example of the late Ben Hagan of Chicago. Bob believes he can put a punch in the preaching business.

TODAY

Health Hint for the Day. Do not cut your finger nails and toe nails alike; the former should be cut to follow the outline of the finger but trim your toe nails in a straight line across the ends of the toes, thus preventing pressure on them by the shoes.

One Year Ago Today in the War. Italian trenches at Osavia captured by Austrians. British labor voted to support the government's war policy. Paris claims all of the lost ground at Neuville had been recovered. Constantinople again reported a British repulse with "appalling losses."

In Omaha Thirty Years Ago. The Northwestern Electric Lighting company of this city has recently completed the erection of a new steam engine in its engine house on Twelfth street. It is of the Corliss make and represents the power of 200 horses. Himebaugh & Merriam's old office, on Twelfth street, has been converted into Pacific tracks from which the firm moving a few days ago, was run into by a backing freight train. The base-

ment was demolished and the superstructure shaken up. The firm has donated the building to the Union Pacific, who will move it to Summit and use it as a depot. The following have been admitted to membership in the Board of Trade: J. S. Gibson, John B. Evans, D. C. Patterson, John Grant, L. M. Anderson, Oscar Goldsmith, Charles Goldsmith, Joseph F. Goodman, John Bauer, J. J. Burns, William Fried and Raye Nye.

Mr. and Mrs. D. L. Thomas entertained a party of about seventy-five of their friends at their spacious residence on Idaho street. Heights syndicate gave an elegant banquet to the A-Number-One real estate firm of Benawa & Co., and their employees. The office of the Mutual Life Insurance company, W. F. Allen, general agent, has been removed from the corner of Fourteenth and Farnam to 215 South Thirtieth.

Arthur Wakeley gave a small dinner party at the club at which the guests were Mrs. Richardson, Mrs. Peck, Miss Canute and Miss Sommers.

This Day in History. 1716—Lord George Germain, the ir-reconcilable foe of America in the cabinet of Lord North during the revolution, born in England. Died there August 26, 1785.

1823—Dr. Edward Jenner, the discoverer of vaccination, died in London. Born in Gloucestershire, May 17, 1749.

1837—Michigan was admitted into the union, with Detroit as the state capital.

1863—General Hooker succeeded General Burnside as commander of the army of the Potomac.

1869—Hollie converter for making Bessemer steel patented.

1870—Lakes of Zurich frozen over for first time in nearly 100 years.

1885—General "Chinese" Gordon, famous English soldier and administrator, killed at Khartoum. Born January 24, 1833.

1889—Beginning of the great street railway strike in Brooklyn.

1894—Reconciliation between the German emperor and Prince Bismarck.

1910—The United States Banking company of Mexico City suspended after a heavy run.

1911—The Canadian reciprocity agreement was sent to congress by President Taft.

1915—Germany seized food supply by official edict.

The Day We Celebrate. Right Rev. Daniel Sylvester Tuttle, preaching bishop of the Protestant Episcopal church in the United States, born at Windham, N. Y., 80 years ago today.

Frank O. Lowden, the new governor of Illinois, born at Sturgis City, Minn., fifty-six years ago today.

Prince August William, fourth son of the German emperor, born at Potsdam, thirty years ago today.

Cleveland H. Dodge, New York merchant and philanthropist, born in New York City, fifty-seven years ago today.

Right Hon. Thomas McKinnon Wood, late chancellor of the duchy of Lancaster and financial secretary to the British treasury, born in London, sixty-two years ago today.

Douglas MacArthur, U. S. A., military censor of the War department, born in Arkansas thirty-seven years ago today.

George T. Oliver, United States senator from Pennsylvania, born in Ireland, sixty-three years ago today.

Thomas Wood Stevens, lecturer on art and president of the American Pageant association, born in Ogle county, Illinois, thirty-seven years ago today.

Timely Jottings and Reminders. Former President William H. Taft is to be the guest and principal speaker at a dinner to be given by the Yale club of Bangor, Me.

Editors and publishers of Kansas newspapers are to gather at Topeka today for the annual meeting of their state association.

The Bee's Letter Box

Methods of Constitution Changing. Heartwell, Neb., Jan. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: The voters of Nebraska put Nebraska "dry." What per cent of the voters will it take to put the state "wet" again and how soon can it be voted again? I have asked this question and some tell me it takes two-thirds of the votes to get it wet again, while others say a majority will do. Which is correct? Please enlighten me.

A READER OF THE BEE. Note: An amendment adopted by what is called the "initiative" method can be rescinded in precisely the same way, but in this case not before 1920, as the constitution prohibits bringing up the same subject by initiative in the next succeeding election. On the other hand, it is probable, though not yet judicially established, that an initiative could likewise be repealed by the other methods permitted by the constitution—namely, the submitting of it to the legislature, or by a rescinding section in a new constitution framed by a constitutional convention. The number of votes required is different in each case. For an initiated amendment it is a majority of the voters cast on the proposition, which majority vote must also be not less than 35 per cent of the total vote cast at the election. For a legislature-submitted amendment it must be a majority equal to a majority of the total vote cast for members of the legislature. For a constitutional convention-submitted amendment it must be a majority of those votes for and against the same.

Say "Let the People Rule." Omaha, Jan. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: Woman suffrage was defeated in Nebraska two years ago by over 10,000 votes. The suffragists have just introduced a suffrage bill in the legislature. They are ignoring the will of the majority in so doing. We have good reason to suppose that if a referendum were held on the question of Nebraska was taken on this question there would be an overwhelming majority against it. How many suffragists are there in Nebraska and whom do they represent? We know that the vast majority of women are either actively opposed or indifferent to woman suffrage. Will the forcing of this question on an indifferent electorate make for efficiency in government?

The suffrage bill just introduced provides only for women voting on presidential electors and municipal officers. This would plunge women into national politics. The former state president of the Nebraska Suffrage association naively admits this by announcing that the bill is introduced largely for the effect eight more electoral votes would have on the national woman suffrage question. What becomes of the remedial legislation for Nebraska in which the suffragists have heretofore claimed to be so vitally interested? The only way to get remedial legislation is by the election of men who will work for such legislation, but this suffrage bill does not provide for the election of legislators by the women, nor does it provide for the election of the governor of the state.

The suffragists are actively engaged in trying to lobby this bill through the legislature, regardless of the majority against suffrage expressed at the polls and regardless of the opposition and wishes of the women of the state. These are the tactics employed by the women of Illinois when suffrage was lobbed through the legislature there in direct opposition to the will of the majority.

NEBRASKA ASSN OPPOSED TO WOMAN SUFFRAGE. A Rap on the Reference Agencies. Omaha, Jan. 25.—To the Editor of The Bee: We want to call the attention of the business men in Omaha who maintain agencies when in need of office and clerical help, to the injustice they are doing their employees. The reference people claim that they save you valuable time, that they investigate the applicants and write to former employers and get the facts, but we beg to advise you that this is not so. An applicant can drop into the reference company's office to register for a position and should your call for help be on file the company will rush said applicant to you at once. No looking up references there. Nor do you take the applicant on the word of the reference companies, for

We believe that you will be better satisfied with our SERVICE PRICES SPEED RELIABILITY and all-round value for the money than with any other Omaha firm.

Omaha Van & Storage Co. Douglas 4163. 806 South 16th St.

Opened Jan. 10, 1917 THE NEW FIREPROOF 200 ROOMS HOTELS SANFORD 100 with bath \$1.50 100 with toilet \$1.00 OMAHA SAFETY, SERVICE AND ECONOMY

Persistence is the cardinal virtue in advertising; no matter how good advertising may be in other respects, it must be run frequently and constantly to be really successful.

you ask them the same questions which they fill out on the registration blanks. What the reference company really does is collect a registration fee of from \$1 to \$2.50. They also tell the business men that whether they find you a helper or not, there is no cost to you. Certainly not, the business men of today are not going to stand by and be robbed, but how about the applicants? Whether they get them a position or not, they are out their registration fee, and if they do get them a position, they pay a good, big commission on it, from 25 per cent to 35 per cent of the man's salary. Then they demand immediate payment of this commission, so that if the applicant finds the work too much for them or the employer is not suited, they must pay all over again for another position. Why should the reference companies reap a fortune from someone else's misfortune? One of us has paid over \$7 into these places and has not been benefited by it and cannot get this money back. Another girl friend of ours working at a position secured through one of these agencies, went back to them and told them that she did not like the position and asked them to get her another. The reference company called up the manager and told him that the girl did not like the place and asked if they could not furnish him with another girl. Needless to say that the girl was discharged. TWO VICTIMS.

SUNNY GEMS. Little Roy longed for a baby sister. His playmate, Tommy Smith, had a number of little sisters and now one had just arrived. "If you want a baby sister so badly," said Roy's mother, "why don't you pray for one?" "I have prayed," answered Roy disconsolately, "and every time I pray God leaves it at the Smith's."—Boston Transcript.

DEAR MR. KABBIB, A FELLOW WHO JILTED ME THREE YEARS AGO, IS CALLING ON ME AGAIN—SHOULD I ACCEPT HIM? YES—BUT REMEMBER, THE PRESENTS START FROM THE "JILTING"—NOT FROM NOW! OLIVE BRINES

Now, if I am out a customer wants to look at a mandolin, flute or piccolo, you know what to show him? Boy—Yes, sir. Dealer—And suppose he should want to see a lyre? Boy—I'd ask him to wait until you came in, sir.—Boston Transcript.



Used Pianos taken in exchange on Apollo and Hospe Player Pianos—Have been thoroughly overhauled in our shop and are in perfect condition.

Emerson, Nelson, Wagner, Mason, Arion, New England, Steinberg, Twitchell, Steger, Griss, Kingsbury, Johnson.

A. Hospe Co. 1513-1515 Douglas St.